

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 30 of the specification with the following amended paragraph.

It is envisaged that the above described valve would be implanted in a patient with an initial coating over the flaps 3,4,5 of a degradable sealing material which would prevent leakage through the openwork structure of the flaps until such time as the patient's own system had developed its own coating over the flaps, by endothelialisation ~~endothelisation~~.